

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The State Govt, of Himachal Pradesh keeps continuous and close watch to prevent any spillover of militancy in J and K to the State, by being vigilant on Chamba border adjoining Doda district of J and K. No such movement of J and K terrorists has been noticed by the H.P. Police on this border of the State of Himachal Pradesh in the recent past.

Government of India continues to provide support to the Govt, of Himachal Pradesh to prevent any spillover of militancy of J and K into Himachal Pradesh as Security Related Expenditure grants.

Proposal to abolish Article 370

1108. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to move for abolition of Article 370 of the Constitution; and
- (b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Loss of Home Minister's Briefing Papers

1109. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem "How North Block Babus nearly debriefed the Home Minister" published in the Hindustan Times dated 27th June, 2001;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) who are responsible for such a negligence in performing their duties and what serious action is being taken against such irresponsible persons; and

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(d) the steps being taken for avoiding such mistakes in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Government have seen the news-item under reference. It is not true that the combination of the Home Minister's briefcase containing top secret documents for the trip was lost. There was no such incident. The Home Minister's briefing papers were safely with the Home Minister's staff. However, one of the suitcases which was being carried by a member of the delegation had a defective lock which was replaced.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

All Party meeting on Kashmir

1110. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are not abiding by its promise to convene all party meeting on Kashmir and consult the opposition to evolve a consensus;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had not taken people into confidence over the developments in and around Kashmir; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the above facts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) No Sir. All party meeting on Kashmir was convened by the Government on 21 February, 2001. The all party meetings regarding the Agra summit also touched on aspects of the Kashmir issue. Similarly the Government has been ascertaining the views of the people through different mechanisms including the offer of talks to various groups in J&K.